



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/075,208
Applicants : Shinya Adachi and Satoko Miyama
Filed : February 14, 2002
Title : METHOD FOR TRANSMITTING LOCATION INFORMATION
ON A DIGITAL MAP, APPARATUS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE
METHOD, AND TRAFFIC INFORMATION PROVISION/RECEPTION
SYSTEM

Conf. No. : 7063
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Examiner : Tuan C. To

Customer No. : 000,116
Docket No. : 34409

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131
ESTABLISHING PRIOR INVENTION IN A
WTO MEMBER COUNTRY AFTER JANUARY 1, 1996

I, as a co-inventor in the above-identified patent application, and on behalf of co-inventor, Satoko Miyama, hereby declare as follows:

1. My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.
2. In Japan, a WTO member country, prior to July 28, 1999, I jointly conceived of a method for transmitting location information on a digital map to which the above-referenced U.S. patent application is directed. Exhibit A attached to this declaration is a copy of Japanese Patent Application No. Hei 11-214068 (hereinafter "Japanese Application") filed in Japan on July 28, 1999. I am listed as a co-inventor in the Japanese Application. An English language translation of the document in Exhibit A is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
3. I have read and understood the above-referenced U.S. patent application, including Claims 19-25, 37-41 and 43 added in the response dated June 23, 2004
4. I have read and understood the Japanese Application (Exhibit A) and the English language translation (Exhibit B).
5. It is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 19 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Figs. 1-2, 3 and 5 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included a location information transmission method for reporting location information on a digital map, characterized in that: an information provider (Center A/B, 51) transmits location information using a shape data including a coordinate string (Steps 3-4, Fig. 2; page 10, line 20,

to page 11, line 20; page 13, line 24, to page 14, line 6); and a party of receiving side (Center B/A, 61) identify said location using said shape data (Steps 5-6, Fig. 2; page 11, line 21, to page 12, line 3; page 14, lines 7-12) as set forth in claim 19.

6. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 20 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 19, wherein said coordinate string represents a geometrically pattern on a digital map (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 20.

7. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 21 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 19, wherein said shape data includes a coordinate string indicating a region including a position on which an event occurs (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 21.

8. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 22 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 19, wherein said shape data includes a coordinate string indicating a border of a region in which an event occurs (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 22.

9. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 23 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 19, wherein said shape data includes a coordinate string indicating points at predetermined intervals (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 23.

10. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 24 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 19, wherein content of said shape data is changeable in accordance with a situation of a region indicated by said shape data (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 16) as set forth in claim 24.

11. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 25 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Figs. 2 and 4 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 19, wherein said party of receiving side (Center B/A, 61) implements shape matching using said shape data in order to identify the location (Step 6, Fig. 2; page 11, line 23, to page 12, line 16) as set forth in claim 25.

12. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 37 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Figs. 1 and 5 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included an information provision apparatus for providing location information on a digital map, by using the method according to any one of claims 19 to 25, said apparatus comprising: a location information converter (2, 53) for converting a location information to be transmitted to said shape data (Figs. 1 and 5; page 10, lines 1-4, and 20-25; and page 14, lines 2-3); and a transmission section (3, 54) for transmitting said shape data (Figs. 1 and 5; page 10, lines 4-6, and page 14, lines 4-5) as set forth in claim 37.

13. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 38 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Figs. 2-3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included an information transmission method for transmitting location information to a device having a digital map, characterized in that: said location information includes a shape data having a coordinate string (Steps 3-4, Fig. 2; Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 16) as set forth in claim 38.

14. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 39 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included an information transmission method according to claim 38, wherein coordinates included in said coordinate string are absolute coordinates (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 39.

15. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 40 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the information transmission method according to claim 38, wherein a part of coordinates included in said coordinate string is relative coordinate (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 40.

16. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 41 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 3 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the information transmission method according to any one of claims 38 to 40, wherein said coordinate string is a coordinate chain (Fig. 3, page 10, line 20, to page 11, line 14) as set forth in claim 41.

17. Further, it is my belief that the whole invention set forth in Claim 43 of the above-referenced patent application was in my possession at the time the Japanese Application was prepared. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 2 as shown in Exhibit B, my invention included the location information transmission method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein said information provider transmits information indicating a type and level of said event, adding to said shape data (Steps 2-3, Fig. 2, page 10, lines 16-20, and page 11, lines 15-18) as set forth in claim 43.

18. On information and belief, on July 28, 1999, the Japanese Application, was filed in the Japanese Patent Office. The above-referenced U.S. patent application, filed on February 14, 2002 in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, is based on this Japanese Application.

19. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Co-inventor, Satoko Miyama, no longer works for the assignee, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., and cannot be found. Satoko Miyama last known residence and post office address are listed below.

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